

## **Acting Secretary of the Army, The Honorable Pete Geren, Message to the Army**

12 March 2007

At close of business, Friday, 9 March 2007, I assumed duties as your Acting Secretary of the Army. I am honored to lead and to care for our Soldiers, their families, and our Army Civilians at this pivotal, dangerous time in the history of our great nation.

We are an Army at war – fighting a ruthless, adaptive, and determined enemy. I am inspired and humbled by your selfless service, your sacrifices, and your record of accomplishment. Your “boots on the ground” have enabled historic elections in Afghanistan and Iraq. Your presence will be required to enable democracy to take hold in these countries, to defeat our enemies, to underwrite America’s ability to protect its citizens, and to defend its interests wherever they are threatened.

Seldom has our nation asked so much of our Army and of our Soldiers and families – but as always, our Army is getting the job done. You are answering the *Call to Duty*. You are serving proudly, whenever and wherever needed – making enormous contributions and sacrifices in so many vital roles:

- Fighting with courage and valor at the forefront of the war on terror;
- Deterring aggression in troubled regions worldwide;
- Securing our borders and preventing attacks on our nation; and,
- Supporting civil authorities to respond to natural disasters at home and abroad.

As a result of your hard work, we have much to be proud of. I stand in awe of the patriotism and the commitment to our Army Values that you demonstrate every day in accomplishing our mission. Through your hard work, you have earned the trust, confidence, and respect of the American People whom we serve. *We will maintain this trust.*

We remain resolute in our determination to preserve peace and freedom for America. To build the strategic depth we require – *to be able to respond decisively to any and all missions we may be assigned* – we are focusing on five major challenges:

- Achieving Full Spectrum Readiness;
- Managing Stress on the Force;
- Growing the Army;
- Protecting the Force; and,
- Building the Army of the Future.

Working together – adhering to our four overarching strategies, and guided by the ideals reflected in our Army Values and our Warrior Ethos – we will realize our Army Vision. We will “*remain the preeminent landpower on Earth ... the ultimate instrument of national resolve ... that is both relevant to, and ready for, the challenges of the dangerous, complex 21<sup>st</sup> Century security environment.*”

I have been proud to serve as your Under Secretary of the Army during the tenure of the Honorable Dr. Francis J. Harvey. His commitment to each of you – *who represent the very best our Nation has to offer* – was the hallmark of his service. As we continue our work together, I assure you my top priority remains our Soldiers and their families.

Again, I am honored to lead and to care for our Soldiers, families, Army Civilians, and veterans. Together, we will build on our record of accomplishment. We will continue to meet the needs of the Nation. *I look forward to serving with you and for you. **Army Strong!***



Pete Geren

Acting Secretary of the Army